

I am writing to complain about the FCC's failure to prevent Sinclair Broadcasting from implementing the company's recently disclosed decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. While I respect the FCC's interest in upholding First Amendment rights, I believe the agency's administrative actions in this instance did not serve the public interest-- or the essence of free speech rights.

American taxpayers allow Sinclair to use the public airwaves free of charge. In turn, as a responsible broadcaster, the company is obligated by law to serve the public interest during a portion of its broadcast day. In my opinion, airing a factually inaccurate and politically partisan anti-Kerry documentary as "news" without offering Mr. Kerry and others an equal period of time to express diverging political points of view on the subject does not advance free speech and the marketplace of ideas.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.